

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2023 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2023*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress (House and Senate) and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and engage in discussion regarding mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from Friday, June 30–Sunday, July 9, 2023. During this exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic and media agencies.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States from Saturday, October 21–Monday, October 30, 2023. They will attend similar meetings in Washington organized by the members of the U.S. delegation.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation shall consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

Please note that there is a significant time commitment aspect for those selected for the program. In addition, U.S. participants are expected to plan and implement the meetings and programs for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter

in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

The completion of two vaccinations and proof of vaccination may be required with the traveler's passport dependent on the destination country's COVID protocols.

Applications should be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HC-4, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2023. Please submit the application and any questions to [interparliamentary.affairs@mail.house.gov](mailto:interparliamentary.affairs@mail.house.gov).

### REMOVING A CERTAIN MEMBER FROM A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Res. 76—Removing a certain Member from a certain standing committee of the House.

H. Res. 76 is a brazen, hypocritical and offensive effort to oust Rep. OMAR from the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Once again, Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans are putting extreme political stunts over solving the actual problems facing the American people.

In modern American history, the punishment of stripping Members of Congress of their committee assignments has been reserved for only the most egregious wrongdoers: those convicted or indicted on corruption, bribery, sexual misconduct, encouraging violence, and other grave charges.

This pure partisan move to strip ILHAN OMAR from her committee is not only a political stunt, but also a blow to the integrity of our democratic institutions and a threat to national security.

We're thankful to Leader JEFFRIES for taking up this fight—if Republicans want to degrade the integrity of the House and its committees, Democrats will always stand up against those efforts.

These antics are meant to suppress the work of OMAR—simply because Republicans in Congress don't like her and her views, all while claiming that they respect and welcome differing opinions.

Questioning someone's objective decision making is the most illegitimate litmus test for serving on a committee.

We know this is true because the Speaker has admitted in a fundraising appeal that he was "firing" her because of her "antics."

Ultimately, this is just the latest chapter in the Speaker's bargain with extreme MAGA Republicans.

The Speaker could not become Speaker without the support of extremist members and removing OMAR from the House Foreign Af-

fairs committee is the price he was all-too-eager to pay.

This is political vengeance for investigating and speaking truth about the twice-impeached former president.

The ramifications for the American public, our national security, and foreign relations are real.

OMAR is an experienced, knowledgeable legislator, who has served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee for the past two terms, committees and has lived experience and expertise in.

OMAR is a child survivor of war who lived in a refugee camp. OMAR is the first African-born member to serve as a Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and brings a wealth of lived experiences to the panel.

Rep. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE and Rep. PAUL GOSAR were removed from their committees last session on a bipartisan basis for encouraging violence against their colleagues, even after a deadly insurrection.

In February 2021, just a month after she was sworn into Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to censure and remove GREENE from her committee assignments for her many extreme, bigoted, and threatening statements—including her past embrace of conspiracy theories and social media interactions encouraging violence against Democratic officials.

In November 2021, the House voted to censure GOSAR and strip him from his committee assignments after he posted an edited anime video on Twitter that depicted him swinging swords at President Biden and killing Rep. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ (D-NY). GOSAR said on the House floor that he does not "espouse violence towards anyone," and voluntarily took the video down "out of compassion for those who genuinely felt offense."

GREENE and GOSAR went on to appear at a conference hosted by white nationalist Nick Fuentes in early 2022, prompting widespread condemnation from leaders in both parties.

Sen. TOMMY TUBERVILLE and Rep. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE are coming under fire for making racist comments during separate Donald Trump rallies over the weekend.

The remarks come on the heels of Trump himself using an anti-Asian slur to refer to Elaine Chao—his former transportation secretary and the wife of Senate Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL—and raise questions about whether some Republicans are growing more comfortable using overtly racist rhetoric.

During a rally Saturday night in Minden, Nevada, TUBERVILLE, R-AL, Democrats "want reparations because they think the people that do the crime are owed that," drawing a direct line between crime and African Americans.

On Sunday in Mesa, Arizona, GREENE, R-GA, espoused rhetoric that echoed the "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory long promoted by white nationalists that nonwhite immigrants could eventually displace native-born white Americans.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.